MINUTES FOR NAPRA GENERAL MEETING DEC 8th

I. Called to order by Ken, N7IPB, President at 1:15 PM. Introductions of all in attendance were made. Members were reminded that many had dues due. Check the address label on your recent issue of Zero Retries.

II. New Memberships - Ken announced that we now had a Membership Services Committee to keep record of members and make sure they are welcomed to the group and given all the latest info on the network, etc. All new applications for membership will now come to him and the mailing list will be up to the minute. Steve, N8GNJ, was appointed to head this committee at the November Board meeting.

III. Board of Directors Meetings - This month it was held earlier today before the General Meeting. Watch for Bulletins in the future. This may become more regular.

IV. Tech VP Report - Scott, N7FSP

A. N7DUO, Conrad, has been coordinated to operate a Node on 144.93 MHz. He will be adding the Node (BELL) soon and tying into the Network.

B. N7ENT, Pete, in Port Orchard, is now the Primary user BBS on SEAW on 144.99 MHz.

C. BALDY Node is having troubles. There has been no word as to what the problem is.

D. N7IIJ may cease operating as HF forwarding gateway. A few others have indicated a willingness to take on this task. Watch for more info.

E. Scott has a new phone - 932-6564.

V. NAPRA Constitutional changes - Revision to the constitution were published in the latest Zero Retries. Ken, N7IPB, discussed the changes and indicated that they would be voted on at the next regular meeting in January. The changes were primarily to bring the constitution in line with Washington State requirements for "Not for Profit" corporations.

VI. Question was raised, "Why can't we connect to LSO (Longview) from Seattle?"

The problem is that there is no longer a good reliable path since the Capital Peak Node went off the network. Even before this there was a problem: too many transmitters on the same frequency. Ken, N7IPB, indicated that this was a great lead into todays program about future network plans.

Also, NAPRA is willing to work with other groups that might want to improve their areas and tie into the network. We coordinate, and would be more than willing to help Olympia and Tacoma with a better link into Seattle. Mike, K7ZVV, still has a great site (1000 ft near Longview) with LSO into Oregon. There just isn't currently a path to him from here.

VII.Misc.

A. BEARS currently are running a telephone BBS on 237-3472 with future possible plans to add a port on packet. Bill, AA6ED, indicated that he was running a ham radio telephone BBS also on 271-4657.

B. Treasurer, Peter, WA7FUS, informally reported that the treasury contained about $1000.

VIII. Short 10 Minute Break

IX. Program - 440 Backbone Hub - Ken, N7IPB

With more and more users there is an ever increasing demand on the network to handle more and more packets.

A. History - The original network was built around a single half duplex 220 MHz channel backbone. This required nodes to transmit one at a time and also required every node to hear all the others. Currently there are several hidden transmitters on the network including ELN in Ellensburg.

B. About a year ago we started working on plans to break up the backbone.

C. About this time a bunch of 440 MHz radios became available from the BEARS. We then started developing plans around these 440 Motorola Micor radios.

D. The Plan:

1. 440 MHz data repeater as central hub running about 25 watts to a horizontally polarized omni directional antenna.

2. Nodes would operate low power (5 watts?) with beam antennas pointed at the repeater.

3. Repeater located on Queen Anne Hill at John Hay Elementry School.

4. 440 transceivers set up at SEA and SEAW and shift from the 220 backbone to the repeater as the primary route.

5. Limit the use of the repeater to a max of 8 Nodes. Run at 1200 baud with future plans to shift to 9600 baud. Possible nodes would be SEA, SEAW, ALKI, BELL, EVT, and TAC.

E. To provide back-up, a second complete repeater package will be kept at the site. This should allow switch over in less than 1/2 days time.

F. Our next step at this time is to get the repeater on the air and checked out. This should happen by the first of the year.

G. Future possibilities:

1. Fiber-optic link to Boseman, MT.
2. Dedicated 440 simplex link to Vancouver, BC.
3. Dedicated 440 link south?
4. Dedicated 440 link east to Ellensburg?
5. Changing NAPRA Nodes SEA and SEAW to all NAPRA equipment.
6. Adding more 9600 baud modems - K9NG Improved.
7. DSP (Digital Signal Processing) modems should become available after the first of the year. Can we make use of them? (Satellite capabilities?)

X. Meeting adjourned about 3:45 PM

John - KA7TTY, Secretary